

## Census 2021 Bulletin

### What are People's Religious Beliefs in Shropshire and how have they changed?

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# Religion in Shropshire

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has released Census 2021 figures on religion. This bulletin will provide a summary at Shropshire level. The religion question was a voluntary question in the Census and in Shropshire 94.1% (304,700) of usual residents answered the question in 2021, similar to England at 96.0%. For the first time the Census 2021 includes insights into religious group composition within different households that contain more than one person.

## Key facts

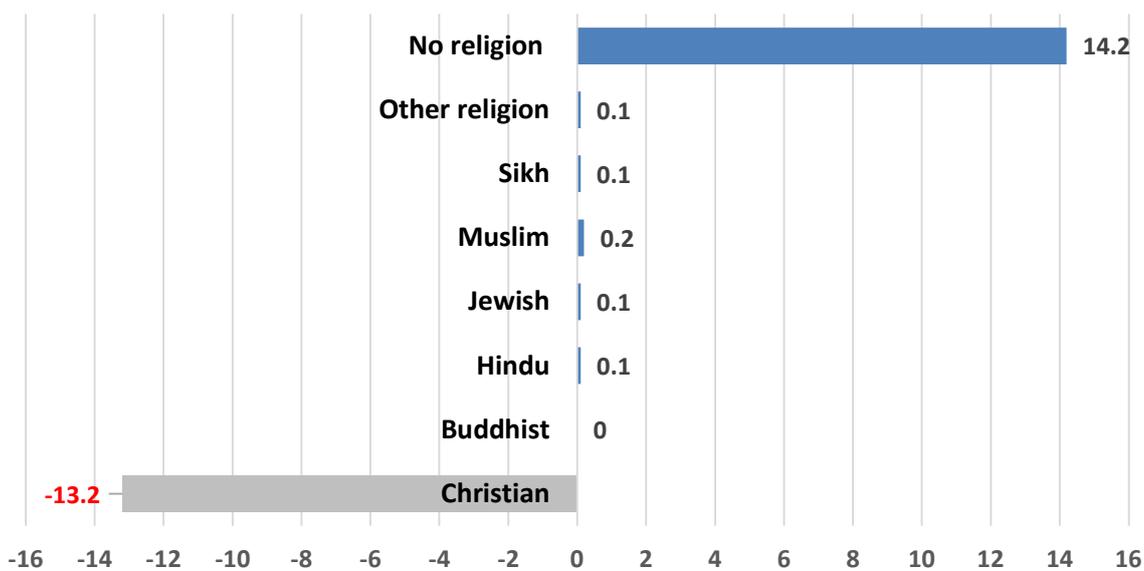
- In Shropshire over half of the population (63%) described themselves as having a religious belief, this was similar to England but less than the West Midlands (67.1%).
- The largest religious group in Shropshire was Christian (55.5%) of the resident population described themselves as having this belief. This religious group has had the largest decline since 2011, falling by 13.2%. In 2011 people describing themselves as Christian accounted for 68.7% of the resident population. This is the only religious group to have declined since 2011.
- The proportion of people in Shropshire describing themselves as Christian is greater than for England (46.2%) and for the West Midlands (46.6%). This shows that England is no longer a majority Christian country.
- The second most common response in Shropshire was “No religion” with 37% of the population. This is similar to England but greater than the West Midlands (32.9%).
- There has been an increase in the proportion of the resident population describing themselves as having “No religion” from 22.8% of the population in 2011 to 37% in 2021. This shows the decline in traditional religious beliefs in society.
- The third largest religious group in Shropshire was Muslim with 0.5% of the resident population describing themselves in this category. This group has increased by 73% from 700 in 2011 to 1700 in 2021. In 2011 this group represented 0.2% of the total resident population. This group has also increased nationally and in the region.
- In Shropshire there is a smaller proportion of people describing themselves as Muslim (0.5%) compared to (6.7%) in England and (9.6%) in the West Midlands.
- There were increases in the number of people who described themselves as “Muslim” (1,700 people in 2021), Buddhist (900), Sikh (800), “Hindu” (600) and Jewish (200). These groups now make up a slightly larger proportion of the total population than in 2011.
- When looking at multi religious households the largest group consists of multi-person households (70.3%) followed by multi-person households with the same religion (34.2%) this is where at least one person has stated a religion, but the household may include people who did not state a religion.
- There were fewer multi-person households stating at least two religions in Shropshire (0.6%) compared to England (1.2%) and the West Midlands (1.0%).



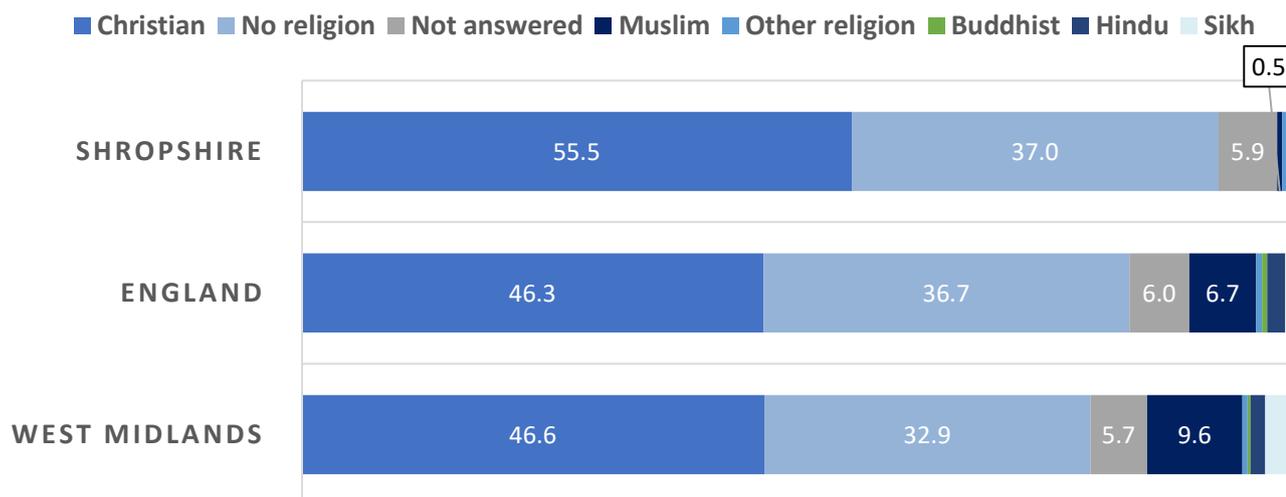
**Table 1: The Percentage of the Shropshire Population by Religious Belief**

Religion	Shropshire	West Midlands	England
Christian	55.5	46.6	46.3
No religion	37.0	32.9	36.7
Not answered	5.9	5.7	6.0
Muslim	0.5	9.6	6.7
Other religion	0.5	0.5	0.6
Buddhist	0.3	0.3	0.5
Hindu	0.2	1.5	1.8
Sikh	0.2	2.9	0.9
Jewish	0.1	0.1	0.5

**Chart 1: Changes in Religious Beliefs in Shropshire 2011 and 2021 (as a proportion of the total resident population)**



**Chart 2: Religious Beliefs Shropshire, West Midlands and England 2021**



**Table 2: Multi Religion Households Shropshire 2021**

Multi Religious Households	Shropshire	West Midlands	England
One-person household	29.7	29.9	30.1
Multi-person household	70.3	70.1	69.9
Multi-person household: No people stated their religion	1.7	1.8	1.9
Multi-person household: Same religion (at least one person has stated a religion, but the household may include people who did not state their religion)	34.2	36.5	33.1
Multi-person household: No religion (household may include people who did not state their religion)	19.4	17.7	20.1
Multi-person household: Same religion and no religion (household may include people who did not state their religion)	14.3	13.1	13.7
Multi-person household: At least two different religions stated (household may include people with no religion and who did not state their religion)	0.6	1.0	1.2



## Sources

[Religion, England and Wales, Census 2021, Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#)

Census 2021 Topic Summaries and Nomis: Table TS021, TS022 and TS023

Census 2011 Tables: KS201EW, QS211EW and QS202EW.

## Further Information

Census 2021 Topic Summaries - [Ethnic group, national identity, language, and religion: Census 2021 in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#).

[Census Maps - Census 2021 data interactive, ONS](#)

[Shropshire Facts and Figures](#)

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